



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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News And Views



April
2023

Pastoral Perspective

In his rich, thoughtful book *The Different Drum: Community Making and Peace*, M. Scott Peck traces the typical trajectory of community-making through four ordered stages, which he names *pseudocommunity*, *chaos*, *emptiness*, and *community*. In *pseudocommunity*, people try to "fake it," being pleasant and dancing around potential disagreements. In time, this gives way to *chaos*, as some members of a group seek to help, heal, or convert others, efforts that are generally well-intentioned but which ultimately fail. *Emptiness* follows, during which the group must let go of dearly held hopes, assumptions, expectations, and ways of interaction that are not completely honest about the pain, the confusion, and the distressing fact that some problems simply cannot be fixed. At this stage, the group goes through something like a death...after which comes an unexpected peace, even joy. "Not every group that becomes a *community* follows this paradigm exactly," Peck writes. "But in the process of community-making by design, this is the natural, usual order of things."

I think it no coincidence that it is also the order of Holy Week. As God makes us into a holy community, we follow Jesus through the same journey.

Palm Sunday is the theater of pseudocommunity. The people welcome Jesus with praise and palm branches as he enters Jerusalem like a king that is both triumphant and modest, both glorious and humble, everything everyone could hope for. He is our heroic leader that we fully support with all our hearts. For now, until things get uncomfortable...

Maundy Thursday is chaos. Jesus is on his knees, first to wash feet like a slave, next to pray in a garden, sweating blood, looking much more like a desperate death row inmate than a victorious king, more mess than messiah. Disciples desperately try and fail to fix the situation: one sells Jesus out, one strikes out in violence, one betrays him three times, everyone scatters and hides.

Good Friday is emptiness. Jesus dies, hauntingly alone, and with him also dies the dream of the kingdom of God he proclaimed so compellingly when he still had breath, the dream that he was the messiah, the dream that he would be the one to save us, the dream that he would change the world. The cross announces that the world's ways of violent power continue to dominate.

And then, suddenly, the surprise. Easter happens. And our community is born.

"When I am with a group of human beings committed to hanging in there through both the agony and the joy of community," Peck concludes, "I have a dim sense that I am participating in a phenomenon for which there is only one word. I almost hesitate to use it. The word is 'glory.'"

(continued)

You are invited to join us for the sacred communal journey, the harrowing road to glory. There are no shortcuts: to show up on Easter without the rest of the week is to settle for a shiny but empty pseudocommunity. Don't cheat yourself. Join us for the whole Holy Week adventure in which Jesus leads us through the terrors and shadows to a peace, a joy, a phenomenon for which there really are no words.

Holy Week at St. Luke's

Mark your calendars now, and plan to join us in worship the holiest week of the year:

April 2nd - Palm Sunday 10:30am

April 6th - Maundy Thursday 7:00pm

April 7th - Good Friday 7:00pm

April 9th - Easter Sunday 10:30am

THANK YOU!

Enormous thanks to everyone at St. Luke's for your cards, notes, and expressions of sympathy for the death of my mother. Thanks also for your generous patience and understanding, which allowed me to receive the sacred gift of being with her when she died and later to be with family to celebrate her life and resurrection. Your kindness and compassionate support are deeply appreciated. God's blessings and my gratitude to you all.

- Pastor Brian



WORSHIP & MUSIC BOARD

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY since April 2022. To partially quote from the April 2022 issue of News & Views, “As announced at the services on March 20th, masks have been mandatory for singing, but as of April 3rd, masks will be optional....The tape currently blocking off every other pew will also be removed.” This seems like so very long ago, but it was only one year ago. Covid certainly took its toll, but we are so blessed to be stronger, blessed to have Pastor Brian as our permanent Minister, blessed to have the leadership of our council, and blessed to be growing in membership! Praise God, Praise God!!!

In preparation for Easter, the workday to clean and polish all of the elements used at the Altar is April 1st at 9:00 am. The Property Board also has a “clean up” day scheduled. The church will be decorated with palms for Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

The Altar will be stripped during the Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 pm on April 6th. A sign-up sheet with the list of duties to be performed is available in the Narthex. Please consider assisting! Good Friday is April 7th, and service will be at 7:00 pm. The black veil will be draped on the Cross, and the crown of thorns will be placed on the Cross, as well. For those who are interested, 3 x 5 cards will be available to write specific prayer requests that can be nailed to a smaller cross in the back of the Sanctuary. Pastor will pray over those prayer requests.

Easter Lilies will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 9th, at 10:30 am! If you would like an Easter Lily in memory, or honor of someone, please fill out the form that is available in the Narthex or on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. The Lilies will be available to pick up immediately following the Easter service. We are asking for a \$15.00 donation for each plant. Please call the church office no later than Tuesday, April 4th to place an order.

Our next Worship & Music Board meeting is *Wednesday, April 12th at 5:45pm* in the church office.

In Christ's Love,
Shirley Prouty, Chair

women^{of}faith



April

General Meeting

Saturday, April 15th at 11:30am

Lunch - Brown Bag

Gather: Socks & underwear for all genders/ages - Toiletries and household products such as: travel size soaps and shampoo, etc. - Hand held electric hair dryers - Alarm clocks - New pillows - Bath towels (white 30"x52") - Hand towels (white 16"x30") - Wash cloths (white) - Disinfectant wipes - Liquid dish soap (for hand-washing dishes) - Powdered laundry soap - unscented liquid fabric softener (NO Dryer sheets) - Non-Latex nitrile disposable gloves, sizes M and L - Paper Plates, Cups and Bowls

Support: Kiwanis Family House

Kiwanisfamilyhouse.org



New Member Sunday March 5th, 2023



Kathleen Arndt, Patty Terry, and Punky Dias

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper



Property Board Wins \$30,000 Grant!

Recently, the Property Board (PB) learned that St. Luke's was successful in receiving a \$30,000 grant from the California Office of Emergency Service (Cal OES) for security fencing along the south end of the Parking Lot. A total of 285 grants were awarded by Cal OES to nonprofit organizations.

In late October of 2022, the PB discovered that Cal OES was requesting proposals for "hardening" and other physical security enhancements for nonprofit organizations. Available funding for the program was \$47,500,000. Unfortunately, the PB did not learn of this opportunity until a week before the submission deadline of October 28, 2022.

Although the PB was somewhat skeptical about the chances of success, since the grants were aimed at organizations with high risks, Board Members Chairperson Clarence Korhonen and Jack Fenske decided there was nothing to lose and an opportunity to improve St. Luke's security. Clarence and Jack proceeded to hastily prepare a proposal for a steel fence across the south end of the parking lot. The proposal was submitted to Cal OES just before the deadline. We thank Faith Harper for her encouragement and assistance and Marlene Kiser for her editing abilities.

For several years, the PB has discussed the need for a steel fence (wrought iron appearance) across the south end of the parking lot. This fence, together with St. Luke's existing fences and buildings, would completely enclose the facilities, including **all** exterior doors. In mid-January of 2022, the PB had gone as far as to request and receive a proposal for the installation of a similar fence. The project did not proceed because of the lack of funds. Thus, this fence quickly became the emphasis of the Cal OES proposal.

The proposed fence submitted to Cal OES would include 190 feet (about) of fence, an automatic driveway gate, and a four-foot walkway gate. Details on the operation of the automatic gate (codes, when opened and closed, etc.) are to be developed but will be coordinated with all. Undoubtedly, there will be a learning process.

Currently, Clarence and Jack are scheduled for record-keeping workshops. We are quickly discovering that grants require copious records. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Clarence or Jack.

*Clarence Korhonen, Chairperson, and Jack Fenske, Member
St. Luke's Property Board*



Community Concerns - For the months of March and April, the Community Concerns Board will be collecting items for “Blessing Bags.” Bins will be provided in the Narthex! Items needed are listed below:

FOOD ITEMS

- Protein food items such as pull-top canned tuna, chicken or Vienna sausage.
- Cheese and peanut butter crackers
- Boxed raisins, dried fruit or self-opening applesauce
- Individually packaged cookies, crackers, hard candies and beef jerky
- Bottled water
- Gallon Size Zip Lock Bags

PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS

- Travel sized shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, mouthwash
- Toothbrush, comb, band aids and safety pins
- Women’s hygiene products
- Socks

Linda Duffek & Cathy Davis, Co-Chairs



Anthony Neidich	April 01
Michele Clemens	April 03
Larry Dockter	April 06
Don Englund	April 09
Clarence Korhonen	April 12
Marilyn Sodergren	April 16
Matthew Spear	April 16
Charles Yakabe	April 16
Megan Gadreault	April 17
Heidi Harrison	April 17
Daniel Laryea	April 10
Leah Torres	April 18
Reuben Jones	April 19
Kamryn Olsen	April 19
Cheryl Menezes	April 20
Benjamin Quintero	April 24
Connie Reule	April 24
Rylee Shower	April 25
Lisa Englund	April 27
Lisa Olsen	April 28
Rachel Kiser	April 30



Bible Study: Please note that the weekly Bible Study is on hiatus throughout April, resuming May 2, 2023.

On May 2 we will start back up again with the Acts of the Apostles - All are welcome to join us on Zoom for a Bible Study on the book of Acts Tuesday mornings at 10 am.

A special **thank you** to Kelly Boyer for taking the Safe Gatherings training and filling in for Peggy on Sunday, March 19! ~ Laura Tice

Please note* - There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

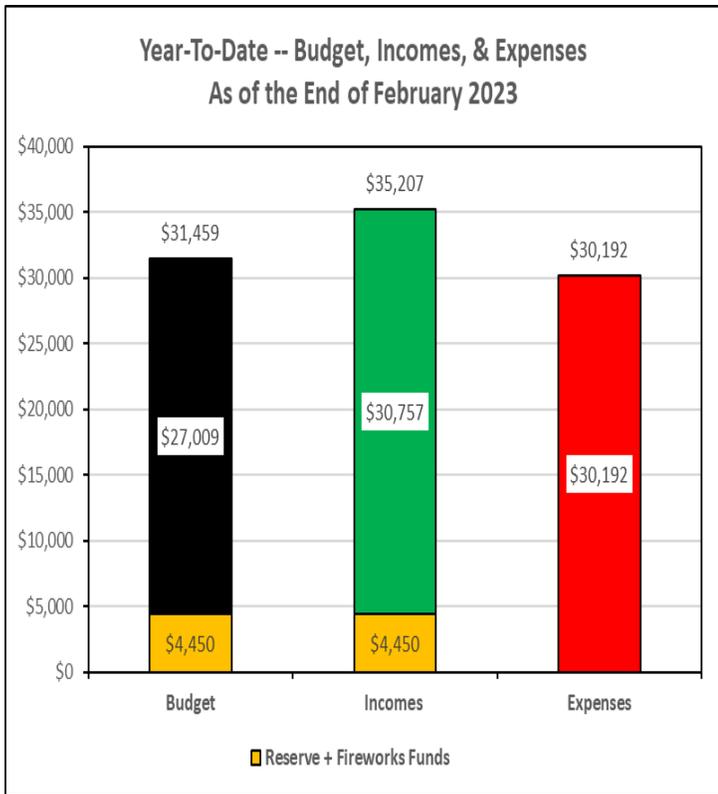
Happy Easter Everyone



April 9th Easter Sunday brunch reception at 9:30am - Join us before Easter Sunday Worship for fellowship & bagels, fruit, juice and coffee.

~ Carole Vance

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT February 2023



To supplement the Financial Secretary’s report on contributions, the Finance Board provides the graph above that compares the year-to-date figures for the Budget, Incomes, and Expenses, as of the end of February 2023. The Budget and Incomes include the addition of funds from the Reserve and Fireworks Special Funds as approved by the congregation. The Finance Board plans to present this graphic monthly (in News & Views and on the website) to provide transparency and increase awareness of our finances.

General Fund (Only) Contributions		
Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$11,935	\$29,301
Compared to Budget	-\$1,402	-\$2,626
	-10.5%	9.8%
No. of Contributors	55	50 aver.

Note: Plus, values are above Budget; minus values are below.

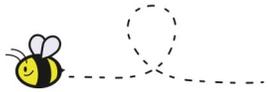
Other Contributions:

- A. Pastor Brian’s Installation Service - \$783.00
Distributed equally to ELCA Fund for Leaders, Mt. Cross Ministries (camp), and the Community Concerns Board (benevolences).

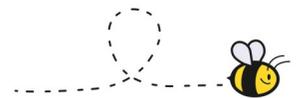
Comments:

- A. The offerings dropped off in February, but the excellent January covered for the decline, if the Reserve/Fireworks augmentations are overlooked.
- B. **Need offering envelopes?** If you need offering enveloped, please contact me either by email or telephone or simply put in the offering plate.

Jack Fenske
St. Luke’s Financial Secretary
916-714-3626
LRFenske@comcast.net



April



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday April 2nd (Palm)

Kelly Boyer	Altar Care	Isaiah 50:4-9a
Shirley Prouty	Reader	Psalms 31:9-16
Philip Karlstad	Prayer Leader	Philippians 2:5-11

Sunday April 9th (Easter)

Carol Carney	Altar Care	Acts 10:34-43
Gail Weber	Reader	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24
Faith Thomas	Prayer Leader	Colossians 3:1-4

Sunday April 16th

Gail Weber	Altar Care	Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Laura Tice	Reader	Psalms 16
Punky Dias	Prayer Leader	1 Peter 1:3-9

Sunday April 23rd

Faith Thomas	Altar Care	Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Howard Triebwasser	Reader	Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19
Karen Linfor	Prayer Leader	1 Peter 1:17-23

Sunday April 30th

Kelly Boyer	Altar Care	Acts 2:42-47
Christiana Wilson	Reader	Psalms 23
Sarah Madison	Prayer Leader	1 Peter 2:19-25



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
7595 Center Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95823

Slelca.org

You are invited to celebrate Easter with us!

Easter Sunday, April 9th

Easter Brunch Reception

9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

10:30 a.m.